Montserrat Caballé





MONTSERRAT CABALLÉ

Soprano

in

The William O'Kelly Memorial Recital with

NAPOLEONE ANNOVAZZI

Accompanist

at

The National Concert Hall

on

Saturday, 19th December, 1981 at 8 p.m.



Montserrat Caballe

THE CAREER OF Montserrat Caballé emphasises two important facts of operatic life that we are sometimes reluctant to acknowledge: the enormous part that is played by chance, and the inability of both audiences and management to appreciate superlative talent even when it is positively blazing under their noses. Caballé became an 'overnight star' in the Spring of 1965 when she took over for the indisposed Marilyn Horne as Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* for the American Opera Society in New York: yet a tape of her Mimi in Basle nine years earlier reveals the same beautiful expressive voice, the same technical command, and the same masterly colouring of tone to create dramatic character.

It is hard to believe, that, considering she sang her way through some 50 roles during those early years, including appearances at Vienna State Opera and La Scala, it took so long for proper recognition to be accorded to her.

Born in Barcelona, she studied music from the age of 8. At 17 she began a 7 year period of intensive vocal training, which laid the foundations of the artistry we marvel at today. 'For technique', she says, 'I went to a Hungarian, Eugenia Kemmeny, who had specialised in the German repertory. It was hard at first to grasp what she wanted, but when I finally understood her teaching I learned incredible breath control, so that I could support the voice on long notes even in pianissimo.' (How often reviewers have brought out their superlatives to praise this particular virtue!) 'I learned my first opera roles—Fiordiligi, Susanna, Lucia, The Queen of Night, with Napoleone Annovazzi. In a year he showed me how to produce a steady stream of tone with no effort, taught me never to force my voice. When I went to him I could hit a top F, but he assured me that I was lyric soprano and that I would lose my voice if I continued as a coloratura.' She was given and responded to perfect advice, because her singing of florid music has always been truly lyrical and expressive.

Following her debut in *La Serva Padrona* in the small town of Reus, near Barcelona, she moved to Basle for 3 years and then through Germany, Italy, Mexico, culminating in her debut in Barcelona in 1962 as Arabella. She says herself that it took her six years to travel from the Conservatorium in Barcelona, which is situated on the top floor of the Opera House, to the stage there.

Since 1965 she has been in demand in all Opera Houses of the world and her repertoire encompasses 102 operatic roles. In addition she has recorded some 33 different operatic roles including *Lucrezia Borgia*, *La Bohème*, *Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Aida*, *Don Carlo*, *Mefistofele* and most recently *I Puritani* and *La Gioconda*.

It was in Barcelona that she fell in love with Bernabè Marti, a fellow Catalan who was singing Pinkerton to her Butterfly. After a courtship whose flavour was more that of Hollywood than of Spain, they were married appropriately enough at the mountain-top of Montserrat some miles from Barcelona in 1964. They have two children and as well as their apartment in Barcelona, they live on an extensive farm some 50 kM. away. Montserrat Caballé is not only one of the truly great singers of our time, to her family and her friends, she is a simple, warm-hearted person with an impish sense of fun that her artistic image scarcely hints at.

"All my life I dreamed of being a great artist. I am not one. I am a good singer with a beautiful voice, but I know I am not a great artist. I try very hard to do my best, the best I can be. As an actress I cannot make impressive gestures. The few I do, however, are sincere, and I think the public realises this."



Napoleone Annovazzi

Napoleone Annovazzi who is well known to Irish audiences through his association with the Dublin Grand Opera Society, both as Conductor and Artistic Advisor, was born in Florence and studied music in Venice and Milan.

He made his operatic debut conducting *Lohengrin* in Merano, Italy, in 1926. Apart from directing operas and symphonies throughout the world, he has composed two operas, many songs, and is a noted musicologist in the field of Baroque Opera. During his researches he unearthed a full score of *L'Arbore di Diana* by the celebrated 18th century Spanish Composer, Vicente Martin y Soler—who is best remembered today for his opera *Una Cosa Rara* which is quoted in the supper scene of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. The Librettist of *L'Arbore* was Lorenzo da Ponte and the opera which was premiered in 1787 was a great success at the time. Maestro Annovazzi has prepared a performing edition of the work and he will direct its first modern performances in Madrid next March with Mme. Caballè in the title role.

His association with Mme. Caballè dates from when he was the Artistic Director of the Teatro del Liceo in Barcelona in the early 1950s. In more recent times he has conducted many operas with her and last month they were together in Nice for *Manon Lescaut* and are returning there in January for performances of *Turandot*.

Recital Programme

Five Italian Arias

VIENI O MIO DILETTO UN CERTO NON SO CHE CHIARE ONDE SPOSO SON DISPREZZATE AGITATA DA DUE VENTI VIVALDI

Four Lieder

MORGEN STÄNDCHEN ALLERSEELEN CÄCILIE **STRAUSS**

INTERVAL

Three French Songs

VOCALISE EN FORME D'HABANERA OUVRE TES YEUX BLEUS AIR DE LIA DE L'ENFANT PRODIGUE RAVEL MASSENET DEBUSSY

Six Spanish Songs

ELEGIA ETERNA LA MAJA EL RUISEÑOR **GRANADOS**

EL VITO DEL CABELLO MAS SUTIL OBRADORS

FARRUCA CANTARES TURINA

Five Italian Arias

Vieni, o mio diletto (from a Cantata)

Un certo non so che (from Il Trigade)

Chiare onde (from Ercole sul Termodonte)

Sposa, son disprezzata (from Bajazet)

Agitata da due venti (from La Griselda)

Vivaldi, the son of a violinist, was born in Venice. He was ordained at the age of twenty-four, but he soon gave up his ecclesiastical duties and became attached to the Conservatorio de la Pietà. Nicknamed 'the red-haired priest', he travelled widely as a violinist and was a most prolific composer. He wrote hundreds of concertos for violin, cello, bassoon and other instruments, more than forty operas, three oratorios and a quantity of liturgical music. Some of his concertos achieved lasting renown in the arrangements that John Sebastian Bach made of them, others, for example *The Four Seasons*, have found new popularity in recent years. Of his vocal music only a few arias and ariettas from the operas and cantatas are generally known. They are full of charming invention.

Vieni, o mio diletto Vieni, vieni o mio diletto. che il mio core tutto affetto già t' aspetta e ognor ti chiama.

Come then, come, oh my beloved, For my heart, by you held captive, All impatient bids you hasten.

Un certo non so che Un certo non so che mi giunge e passa il cor, e pur dolor non è.

Se questo fosse amor? nel suo vorace ardor già posi incauta il piè. I know not what it is That seems to pierce my heart Yet leaves no sense of pain.

How then if this were love? Near his devouring flames One has been rash to stray.

Chiare onde

Onde chiare che sussurate, Ruscelletti che mormorate, Consolate il mio desio. Dite almeno all'idol mio La mia pena e la mia brama. Sparkling waves, as you ripple softly, Rivulets with your murmuring voices, Satisfy my ardent wishes. Do but tell my best beloved All I suffer, all my longing.

Sposa, son disprezzata Sposa, son disprezzata, fide, son oltraggia, cieli, che feci mai? E pur egli è il mio cor, il mio sposo, il mio amor, la mia speranza.

Wedded, then scorned and slighted, Faithful, and now insulted, Heaven, what have I done? He truly is all my life; Him I married, him I love, In him I trusted.

Agitata da due venti Agitata da due venti, freme l'onda in mar turbato, e 'l nocchiero spaventato già s' aspetta naufragar.

Buffetted by opposing winds, The ocean waves rage on in fury, And the steersman, filled with terror, Fears his ship is doomed to sink. Morgen (John Henry Mackay)

Ständchen (Adolf Friedrich von Schack)

Allerseelen (Hermann von Gilm)

Cäcilie (Julius Hart)

Richard Strauss wrote more than two hundred songs. Most of them appeared in small volumes, twenty-six in all, each containing from three to eight songs, twelve of the volumes being devoted to the poems of a single author. The first complete edition of Strauss songs was published by Messrs. Boosey & Hawkes in 1964, the centenary year of the composer's birth. Morgen and Cäcilie are from Opus 27, a volume dedicated as a wedding gift to Madame Pauline Strauss-de Ahna, and Cäcilie was written on September 9th, 1894, the day before the composer's marriage. Ständchen is from Opus 17 (1885-87), and Allerseelen is the last song in the first volume, Opus 10, composed in 1882 and 1883.

Morgen

Und morgen wird die Sonne wieder scheinen,

Und auf dem Wege, den ich gehen werde, Wird uns, die Glücklichen, sie wieder

Inmitten dieser sonnenatmenden Erde . . .

Und zu dem Strand, dem weiten, wogenblauen

Werden wir still und langsam

niedersteigen, Stumm werden wir uns in die Augen schauen,

Und auf uns sinkt des Glückes stummes Schweigen . .

Ständchen

Mach auf, mach auf, doch leise, mein Kind,

Um keinen vom Schlummer zu wecken. Kaum murmelt der Bach, kaum zittert im Wind

Ein Blatt an den Büschen und Hecken. Drum leise, mein Mädchen, dass nichts sich regt.

Nur leise die Hand auf die Klinke gelegt.

Mit Tritten, wie Tritte der Elfen so

Um über die Blumen zu hüpfen; Flieg leicht hinaus in die Mondscheinnacht.

Zu mir in den Garten zu schlüpfen. Rings schlummern die Blüten am rieselnden Bach.

Und duften im Schlaf, nur die Liebe ist

Sitzt nieder, hier dämmert's geheimnissvoll Come sit here, this shade has a secret Unter den Lindenbäumen: Die Nachtigall uns zu Häupten soll

Von unseren Küssen träumen. Und die Rose, wenn sie am Morgen erwacht,

Hoch glühn von den Wonneschauern der Nacht.

Tomorrow

Tomorrow will the sun once more be shining

And on the road that I shall journey over He'll re-unite us two, who are blest by Fortune.

Upon this sun-absorbing earth we inhabit.

And to the shore widespread, caressed by blue waves,

We shall walk down in peaceful calm, and slowly,

Gazing into each other's eyes quite speechless,

A silence born of happiness upon us.

Serenade

Unbolt, unbolt, but quietly, my dear,

That none of the sleepers may waken. The stream is scarce heard, the wind barely lifts

A leaf on the bushes and hedges. So quietly, my sweetheart, let nought be stirred.

And see that your hand touches gently the latch.

With footsteps as light as a fairy will take.

In tripping from flower to flower, Slip softly out in the moonlit night,

And come to me here in the garden. Here flowers close in sleep by the murmuring brook,

Still perfumed they sleep; only Love is awake.

Under the lime tree's branches. The nightingale to our fancy shall Be musing upon our kisses. And the roses, when they awaken at dawn,

Will glow with the magic bliss of the

Please do not turn the page until the song is finished.

Allerseelen

Stell' auf den Tisch die duftenden Reseden, die letzten roten Astern trag' herbei, und lass uns wieder von der Liebe reden, wie einst im Mai.

Gib mir die Hand, dass ich sie heimlich drükke, und wenn man's sieht, mir ist es einerlei,

gib mir nur einen deiner süssen Blikke, wie einst im Mai.

Es blüht und duftet heut' auf jedem Grabe, ein Tag im Jahr ist ja den Toten frei, komm an mein Herz, dass ich dich wieder habe,

wie einst im Mai.

Cäcilie

Wenn du es wüsstest,
was träumen heisst von brennenden
Küssen,
von Wandern und Ruhen mit der
Geliebten,
Aug' in Auge und kosend und plaudernd,
Wenn du es wüsstest,
du neigtest dein Herz.

Wenn du es wüsstest, was bangen heisst in einsamen Nächten, umschauert vom Sturm, da niemand tröstet milden Mundes die kampfmüde Seele, wenn du es wüsstest, du kämest zu mir.

Wenn du es wüsstest,
was leben heisst, umhaucht von der
Gottheit
weltschaffendem Atem, zu schweben
empor
lichtgetragen, zu seligen Höh'n,—
wenn du es wüsstest,
du lebtest mit mir!

All Souls' Day

Set on the board the mignonette all fragrant,

The latest flowering asters bring here too, Then let us speak again of love together, As once in May.

Give me your hand, that secretly I may press it,

And if we're seen, I do not greatly care, Let but your dear eyes gaze awhile upon me,

As once in May.

Sweet blooms to-day on every grave are flowering,
One day the year spares for departed souls;
Come to my heart, let me once more possess thee,

As once in May.

Cecilia

If you knew, only, What it is to dream of fiery kisses,

Of roaming and resting with your beloved, Lost in gazing, and fondling and prattling,— If you knew, only,

You would soften your heart.

If you knew, only, What it is to fear, all lonely at night-time, Mid threatening storms, with none to utter

Soothing words to a strife-weary spirit,— If you knew, only, You would hasten to me.

If you knew, only,
What it means to live, inspired by the
almighty
World-creating Spirit, and soaring aloft,
Bathed in radiance, toward heavenly
heights,—
If you knew, only,
You would tarry with me.

INTERVAL

Three French Songs

Vocalise en forme d'Habanera

Ouvre tes yeux bleus (Paul Robriquet)

J

Air de Lia (from L'Enfant prodigue)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Achille Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Ciboure, where Ravel was born, is close to the Spanish border. His parents had lived in Spain, and his own affinity with the Spanish character is to be felt whenever his music is inspired by Spanish subjects, or is written in the idiom of the songs of Spain.

Massenet wrote two hundred and sixty songs, not including the airs that are taken from his operas. *Ouvre tes yeux bleus* is the third of six songs in the cycle *Poème d'amour*, all with words by Paul Robriquet, published in 1880. The composer was careful to note in the autograph that the song was completed on Sunday, September 15th, 1878, at five o'clock in the afternoon.

L'Enfant prodigue, a Cantata with words by Eduard Guinand, was the envoi that Debussy sent to the Institut in Paris when he was a Prix de Rome student at the Villa Medici. It was published in 1884. Sir Thomas Beecham produced it as a one-Act opera, played with Hänsel and Gretel, in the course of his first opera season at Covent Garden in 1910. Several European stage productions followed, and L'Enfant prodigue returned to Covent Garden in 1923. The Air de Lia is sung by the Mother of the Prodigal Son at the beginning of the work.

Vocalise en forme d'Habanera

Ouvre tes yeux bleus
Ouvre tes yeux bleus, ma mignonne;
Voici le jour.
Déjà la fauvette fredonne
Un chant d'amour.
L'aurore épanouit la rose:
Viens avec moi
Cueillir la marguerite éclose;
Reveille-toi!

A quoi bon contempler la terre Et sa beauté? L'amour est un plus doux mystère Qu'un jour d'été; C'est en moi que l'oiseau module Un chant vainqueur, Et le grand soleil que nous brûle Est dans mon coeur!

Récitatif et Air de Lia

L'année en vain chasse l'année!
A chaque saison ramenée,
Leurs jeux et leurs ébats m'attristent
malgré moi:
Ils rouvrent ma blessure, et mon chagrin
s'accroit . . .
Je viens chercher la grève solitaire . . .
Douleur involontaire!
Efforts superflus!
Lia pleure toujours l'enfant qu'elle n'a
plus!

Azaël! Azaël! Pourquoi m'as-tu quittée? En mon coeur maternel Ton image est restée. Azaël! Azaël! Pourquoi m'as-tu quittée? Cependant les soirs étaient doux Dans la plaine d'ormes plantée, Quand, sous la charge récoltée, On ramenait les grands boeufs roux. Lorsque la tâche était finie, Enfants, vieillards et serviteurs, Ouvriers des champs ou pasteurs, Louaient de Dieu la main bénie. Ainsi les jours suivaient les jours, Et dans la pieuse famille, Le jeune homme et la jeune fille Echangeaient leurs chastes amours.

D'autres ne sentent pas le poids de la vieillesse; Heureux dans leurs enfants, Ils voient couler les ans Sans regret comme sans tristesse...

Aux coeurs inconsolés, que les temps sont pesants!

Azaël! Azaël! Pourquoi m'as-tu quittée? Vocalise in the style of the Habanera
Ah

Open your blue eyes
Open your blue eyes, my darling,
See, it is day.
Already the warbler intones
A song of love.
With the dawn the rose bud opens,
So come with me
And pick newly wakened daisies;
Arouse yourself!

Of what use to survey the world And its beauty? Love is a mystery far more sweet Than summer days. I have within me a bird that sings Victorious songs, And the high sun that burns us all Is in my heart.

Lia's Recitative and Aria

Another year has passed away!
As each season comes round again
Their pleasures and delights bring but
sadness to me:
They afflict my heart anew, my sorrow
grows the more.
I turn toward the lone, deserted strand . . .
Suffering beyond relief!
Exertion in vain!
Lia mourns ceaselessly the child she now
has lost.

Azaël! Azaël!
Why have you gone from me?
Still a mother's sad heart
Holds your memory dear.
Azaël! Azaël!
Why have you gone from me?
Were they not happy, those evenings
On the plain among the elm trees,
As, burdened with gathered harvest,
Homeward came the great red oxen.
Then when the day's hard work was done,
The child, the old man, the servants too,
Workers from the fields or shepherds,
Would praise the generous hand of God.
So one by one the days went by
And among our good, simple folk
Many a man and his chosen maid
Would exchange vows of faithful love.

How many are there who feel not the weight of years, Who blest with children's love Can see the years pass by, Nor regret, nor be sad at heart!

For hearts that know no peace, how weary are the hours!

Azaël! Azaël! Why have you gone from me?

Please do not turn the page until the aria is finished.

Six Spanish Songs

Elegía Eterna (Apeles Mestres)

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

La Maja y el Ruiseñor (from Goyescas)

El Vito

Ferran Jaumandreu Obradors (1897-1945)

Del Cabello más sutil

Farruca (Ramon de Campoamor)

Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)

Cantares (Ramon de Campoamor)

Granados was the earliest of modern Spanish composers to become popular abroad, through his *Spanish Dances* and *Goyescas* for piano, and his songs written in the style of Eighteenth Century *tonadillas*. The poem of *Elegía Eterna* is written in Catalan. The suite of six piano pieces entitled *Goyescas* was inspired by scenes in the paintings of Goya. Ernest Newman described it as "the finest piano music of our day" and added, "The music, for all the fervour of its passion, is of classical beauty and composure". Out of this music Granados made an opera to a libretto by Fernando Periquet. It was first given in New York at the Metropolitan Opera House on January 28th, 1916. Returning to Europe after the production, Granados was drowned when the *Sussex* was torpedoed in the English Channel. *La Maja y el Ruiseñor*, the fourth number in the piano suite, became in the opera a song for Rosario at the beginning of the last Act. She is sitting in her moonlit garden where a nightingale is singing. Later there is a passionate love duet, and then her lover is mortally wounded in a duel with his rival. Rosario's song is among the best loved of Granados' compositions.

Obradors, a native of Barcelona, was a pianist, conductor and teacher. He wrote symphonic and chamber music, and *zarzuelas* for the theatre, but he is known principally for his volumes of popular songs from the various regions of Spain. The *Vito* is a lively dance from Andalucía.

Turina was born in Andalucía and studied in Paris under Vincent d'Indy at the Schola Cantorum. He achieved a considerable reputation outside Spain with his songs and with two popular orchestral pieces, *La procesión del rocío* (1913) and *Danzas fantásticas* (1920). Turina was an excellent pianist and was also a music critic writing for the Madrid journal *El Debate*. He wrote two operas, and is the author of a Musical Encyclopedia. These two songs are taken from Suites, all with words by Campoamor; *Farruca* is from *Triptico No. 1, Cantares* is the third of six songs in a volume entitled *Poema en forma de Canciones*.

Elegía Eterna

El papello no li ha dit mai, no gosa no velarli, son mal, però glateix d'amor per una rosa qu' idolatra a la brisa matinal.

La brisa matinal enamorada per la boira s' desviu, i la boira perduda i afollada decandintse d'amor adora al riu.

Mes ai! el riu engojaset fugia de penyal en penyal, la boira enamorada al riu seguia, i a la boira la brisa matinal.

En tant vegeutse abandonada i sola, s' ha desfullat, la flor: i al demunt d' aquell tronc sense corola, s' atura el papello, clou l'ala i mor.

Elegy Perpetual

The butterfly has never told, nor dare he Reveal to her, his pain.
He palpitates with love though, for a fair rose,
But her devotion's for the morning breeze.

The morning breeze, in love to desperation, Is pining for the mist;
The mist in turn, infatuate, distracted,
A lowly slave to love, adores the stream.

Alas, the stream in trouble was escaping Past many a stubborn rock; The love-lorn mist pursued the stream all vainly, And close behind the mist the morning breeze.

Meanwhile, finding herself alone, abandoned,
The rose has shed her leaves;
And lighting on that stem that bears no flower,
The butterfly stays, folds his wings, and dies.

La Maja y el Ruiseñor

¿ Por qué entre sombras el ruiseñor entona su armonioso cantar?
¿ Acaso el rey del dia guarda rencor y de él quiera algun agravio vengar? Guarda quizàs su pecho oculto tal dolor que en la sombra espera alivio hallar triste entonando cantos de amor.

Tal vez alguna flor, temblorosa del pudor de amar, es la esolava enamorada de su cantor... i Misterio del cantar que entona envuelto en sombra el ruiseñor! Rosario and the Nightingale

Why hides the nightingale deep in the shade

When pouring out his sweet, melodious song?

Could he toward daytime's ruler bear

And seek revenge for some injustice done? Maybe his heart conceals a secret grief That in the shadows he hopes to allay With mournful giving voice to songs of love.

Who knows but that some flower, Tremulous with love's humility, Is overcome, enraptured by his sweet refrain Mysterious is the song The nightingale enwrapped in darkness sings!

El Vito

Una vieja vale un real, y una muchacha dos cuartos; y yo, como soy tan pobre, me voy a lo más barato.

Con el vito, vito, vito, Con el vito, vito, va.

No me jaga usté cosquillas, que me pongo colorá.

Del cabello más sutil
Del cabello más sutil
Que tienes en tu trenzado,
He de hacer una cadena
Para traerte a mi lado.

Una alcarraza en tu casa, Chiquilla, quisiera ser, Para besarte en la boca Cuando fueras a beber.

Farruca

Está tu imagen, que admiro, tan pegada a mi desco, que si al espejo me miro, en vez de verme te veo.

No vengas, falso contento, Ilamando a mi corazón, pues traes en la ilusión envuelto el remordimiento.

Marcho a la luz de la luna de su sombra tan en pos, que no hacen más sombra que una, siendo nuestros cuerpos dos. An old woman costs a penny, And a young lass but two farthings; So I, being such a poor man, Must go for the better bargain.

With a vito, vito, vito, With a vito, vito va.

Do not tease me with those glances, For you only, make me blush.

With the finest of the hairs
With the finest of the hairs
In the braids that richly adorn you,
I must make myself a chainlet
That I may pull you beside me.

Would that I could be a beaker, My dearest, within your house, That I might greet your lips with kisses Every time you came to drink.

Farruca (Flamenco Dance)

Your own adorable image, Is so much a part of my life That, when I look in the mirror, You only I see, not myself.

Let no deceptive illusion, Make its appeal to my heart For wishful thinking embraces The seeds of unhappy regret.

Walking along in the moonlight I pursue your shadow so, That you'll see one shadow only Though in substance we are two.

Cantares

¡ Ay!
Más cerca de mí te siento
cuando más huyo de tí,
pues tu imagen es en mí
sombra de ml pensamiento
¡ Ay!

Vuelvemelo a decir, pues embelesado ayer te escuchaba sin oir y te miraba sin ver. 1 Ay! Song

Ah!
More closely I feel you near me
When we are furthest apart,
For your image in my mind
Stays with me, close as my shadow.
Ah!

Come back and tell me it again; I was spellbound yesterday, Having ears I did not hear, Watching you I did not see. Ah!

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